7: Lumholtz N-5 (1909-1910) 1912
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here also bees deposit their honey and bats make their homes. Sometimes rabbits attack the stem to get at the juicy pulp.

To the Indians the sahuaro is invaluable, and by tacit understanding they consider it a crime to cut one down. The grateful fruit comes at a time when most needed, and the Indians leave their habitations to camp among the sahuaro as long as the season lasts. Not only does the fruit then furnish them with their principal means of subsistence, but the greater part is boiled down to a sirup for future consumption in the winter, serving also as material for an intoxicating drink, which is used at the sahuaro festival. The seeds, too, are eaten after having first been ground on the metate, and they taste better than would be expected; the Indians also feed their fowls with them and many sackfuls are brought back to the houses after the sahuaro harvest. The wooden skeletons or ribs of the sahuaro furnish the Papago with light, strong, and elastic building stuff, and from the same material he makes the long stick which is needed to bring the fruit down from its lofty elevation, coloring the pole red with the juice of the fruit. Also chicken coops, chairs, traps, and similar articles of the household are manufactured from sahuaro ribs. Even the wooden tissue bags produced by the woodpeckers are made to serve as water bottles or drinking vessels.

So important a part does this cactus play in the life of the Papago that their year begins with the sahuaro harvest. The season lasts from the middle of June till the middle of July. Every rancheria is supposed to make